

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS FEBRUARY, 1944.

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PART 1 - PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL.

Seasonal conditions. Vegetable and dairying districts in the central and southern portions of N.S.W. need rain urgently. Pastoral conditions are generally satisfactory apart from the Western Riverina, but good rains are wanted to provide winter pastures.

Allocations to States of 8,690 men released from the Army for rural work up to 19th February have been announced as: Vic. 2,285, Q'land. 2,176, N.S.W. 2,125, W.Aust. 1,047, Sth. Aust. 557 and Tasmania 500.

Early maize crops, soon to be harvested, are needed to relieve a current market shortage. Crops on the Central and North Coasts and Northern Tablelands (which produce about 75% of the States output) have been favoured with good growing conditions. Dry weather has affected crops on the South Coast and Slopes. A normal maize acreage is anticipated this year.

Hay. Early reports point to the cut of hay being smaller than usual, especially on the Central Tablelands and Slopes, owing to shortage of manpower and material. Similar reports come from Victoria where a very favourable season is required to restore pastures.

Potatoes. Yields from inland potato crops are expected to be satisfactory only in the New England area. Prospects elsewhere have been impaired by dry weather and damage by the potato moth.

Fish and Poultry have been brought within the scope of National Security (Food Control) Regulations but, according to announcements, no specific control measures are contemplated at present.

Australian Food exports to Britain. A decline in exports of foodstuffs to Britain is revealed by statistics quoted by the Minister for Commerce and reproduced below. Important reasons for the decline were lack of shipping and requirements of military forces in the South-west Pacific. Adequate facilities are to be provided for the shipment of available foodstuffs and Britain has agreed to take some classes of meat not previously acceptable.

FOOD EXPORTS TO UNITED KINGDOM.

Product	Unit	1938/39	1939/40	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43
		Millions.				
Butter	lb.	217.0	244.2	174.0	105.0	110.5
Dry Butter	"	6.1
Cheese	"	34.8	40.7	22.6	15.4	15.3
Eggs in shell	doz.	10.1	10.2	17.2	6.2	...
Powder	lb.	.6	...	1.1	5.7	.3
Meats	"	488.7	582.8	484.7	306.0	246.1
Fruits - Dried	"	117.4	65.1	93.5	85.0	82.1
Preserved in Liquid	"	69.3	67.1	2.4

MEAT.

Australian output in 1943 was stated by the Minister for Commerce to be 1,045,000 tons, as compared with 955,000 tons in 1942 and 1,052,000 tons (record) in 1938. The production of canned meat, 85,000 tons, in 1943 was about five times the pre-war quantity.

In Canada meat rationing and meatless Tuesdays have been temporarily suspended due to accumulation of stocks arising from transport and shipping difficulties.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

A winter subsidy is to be paid by the Federal Government to bring the returns to suppliers of fresh milk up to 1s.6d. per gallon (1s.5d. in Adelaide) of milk delivered to city areas. The rate per gallon and period of the winter subsidy will be: Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo 3d. for 5½ months, Adelaide 3d. for 4 months, Hobart and Launceston 3d. for 7 months, Brisbane 1½d. for 4 months. Dairy farmers supplying milk to Perth already receive 1s.6d. whilst Sydney suppliers were stated by the Federal Treasurer to be getting throughout the year 1s.4d. at country depots approximately equivalent to 1s.6d. delivered to city. The purpose of the subsidy is to encourage production in order to prevent a shortage during the winter. Action is being taken also to fix uniform prices and to control distribution of bran, pollard and other fodders.

The butter ration to establishments catering for casual meals has been reduced by 25%.

PART II - FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL.

A bill to introduce the pay-as-you-go system of income taxation as from 1st July 1944, has been presented by the Federal Treasurer. It is to apply to individual taxpayers, but not to companies which will continue to be assessed for tax upon the income of the preceding year. In making the transition from the existing system to pay-as-you-go, individuals will be assessed for tax on income derived in 1943/44 at one-quarter of current tax rates. In general, such tax on 1943/44 income will be payable by employees in instalments deducted from salaries and wages during the period April to June, 1944, and by non-employees in three equal instalments payable in the financial years 1944/45 to 1946/47 in addition to normal assessments for these years.

Slight reductions in the prices of women's and girl's outerwear clothing are expected to accrue from amendments to Prices Orders by which manufacturers and retailers margins are controlled.

The Mortgage Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank was opened on 27th September 1943, to make long term loans to primary producers. Operations in all States to 16th February, 1944, were as follows -

Applications for loans.			Allocation of Loans.		
	No.	£000		No.	£000
Approved	256	581	Woolgrowers	89	269
Rejected	578	1,260	Wheat growers	31	90
Being considered	226	495	Dairy farmers	88	160
			Orchards, poultry, etc.	48	62
Total Applications	1,060	2,336	Total approved	256	581

In N.S.W. 241 applications aggregating £599,000 were received of which 143 for £262,000 were granted. The Department lends on 1st mortgage up to 70% of valuation, with a maximum of £5,000, for periods from 5 to 41 years. Rates of interest are 4% on loans up to 20 years and 4½% for longer periods. Loans may be used only to discharge existing loans or for the purpose of primary production carried on by the borrower.

SAVINGS BANKS.

There were further large increases in depositor's balances in January, 1944, viz., N.S.W. £4.2 m. and Australia £10.9 m. The N.S.W. increase was only about £0.1 m. less than the record amount in July, 1943. The Australian increase was exceeded by £1.4 m. in July and £0.8 m. in August, 1943.

Increases recorded during the seven months ended January were: N.S.W. £25.8 m. this year and £14.7 m. last year; Australia £67.2 m. and £43.4 m., respectively.

/SAVINGS

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS: N.S.W. AND AUSTRALIA.

Period.	N.S.W.		AUSTRALIA.	
	Deposits at end of period.	Increase or Decrease(-) in period.	Deposits at end of period	Increase or Decrease(-) in period.
<u>Year ended June:</u>	£000	£000	£000	£000
1939	87,474	1,458	245,587	5,155
1940	82,111	(-) 5,363	236,991	(-) 8,596
1941	87,750	5,639	252,231	15,240
1942	94,538	6,788	274,275	22,044
1943	122,405	27,867	357,995	83,720
<u>Month: 1942/3-Oct.</u>	103,583	2,198	301,451	6,055
Nov.	104,930	1,347	305,927	4,476
Dec.	105,745	815	309,012	3,085
Jan.	109,220	3,475	317,685	8,673
<u>1943/4-Oct.</u>	136,326	2,163	398,587	6,417
Nov.	138,328	2,002	404,068	5,481
Dec.	142,108	3,780	414,298	10,230
Jan.	146,283	4,175	425,240	10,942

WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

In January net sales of War Savings Certificates declined to £184,000 in N.S.W. and £461,000 in Australia.

During the seven months ended January, 1944, the sales in N.S.W. amounted to £2,031,000 being a little higher than £1,946,000 in the previous year, in Australia the current year's sales were less than last year, the respective amounts being £5,437,000 and £5,682,000.

NET PROCEEDS OF SALE OF WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES N.S.W. & AUSTR.

	Sept. '43	Oct. '43	Nov. '43	Dec. '43	Jan. 44	July '43 Jan. '44	Total to Jan. '44
			Thousand £				
N.S.W.	216	234	644	356	184	2,031	14,570
Aust.	658	753	1,433	882	461	5,437	40,583

RETAIL TRADE.

A small expansion in Christmas trade as compared with last year is indicated by an increase of 5.4% in the value of December sales made by a group of large city stores. For the year 1943 sales declined by 11.3% and stocks were lower by 6.8% on the average and by 12.8% at the end of the year.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from corresponding period of the previous year.

Year	August	September	October	November	Dec.	Year Jan.-Dec.
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Value of Sales.

1940	(+) 12.7	(-) 1.0	(+) 5.6	(+) 13.0	(+) 5.7	(+) 6.3
1941	(+) 16.3	(+) 20.5	(+) 18.1	(+) 7.4	(+) 4.8	(+) 14.6
1942	(+) 5.7	(-) 7.0	(-) 17.3	(-) 16.3	(-) 23.1	(-) 5.3
1943	(-) 20.7	(-) 11.5	(-) 9.9	(-) 1.7	(+) 5.4	(-) 11.3

Value of Stock.

1940	(+) 25.5	(+) 19.9	(+) 14.8	(+) 12.0	(+) 9.8	(+) 17.0
1941	(+) 9.5	(+) 10.5	(+) 13.9	(+) 16.2	(+) 21.5	(+) 8.0
1942	(+) 13.4	(+) 5.9	(+) 2.1	(-) 1.2	(+) 1.5	(+) 9.2
1943	(-) 11.4	(-) 10.0	(-) 9.1	(-) 10.1	(-) 12.8	(-) 6.8

The comparative increase in December sales was spread over all classes of wearing apparel. Appreciable increases in these, however, were largely counteracted by reduced sales of household piece goods (unrationed last year) and furniture and hardware. The greatest relative decreases in stocks at the end of December were in furniture and hardware 21.1%, womens wear 19.8% and boots and shoes 14.8%.

RETAIL TRADE - SALES BY LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage movement from same month in preceding year.

Month in 1943	Wearing Apparel				Household Piece Goods	Furniture and Hardware
	Dress Piece Goods	Womens Wear	Men's & Boys Wear	Boots & shoes		
Sept.	48.7	13.1	(-) 0.1	(-) 4.4	(-) 45.4	(-) 40.2
Oct.	38.1	13.8	1.7	6.9	(-) 43.3	(-) 38.6
Nov.	29.4	15.0	9.2	11.4	(-) 29.7	(-) 27.6
Dec.	38.6	26.9	26.2	19.7	(-) 19.6	(-) 24.5

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales by traders registered in N.S.W. under the Sales Tax Acts amounted to £240.5 m. in 1943, a small increase of £1.8 m. compared with the previous year. Sales of exempt goods, which include Government purchases, totalled £150.2, being £5.1 m. more than in 1942, whilst taxable goods, £90.3 m. declined by £3.3 m.

SALES BY TRADERS REGISTERED UNDER SALES TAX ACTS: N.S.W.

TOTAL TAXABLE AND EXEMPT GOODS.

Period	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	£. million				
Month - June	14.9	17.1	21.8	18.9	20.9
July	15.3	16.7	17.6	19.2	19.8
August	16.8	17.2	20.3	20.9	18.7
September	19.4	17.5	21.6	19.6	19.9
October	19.2	18.5	18.2	22.1	20.8
November	17.5	18.1	20.6	19.5	21.1
December	18.3	17.0	20.3	21.0	19.6
Year Jan. to Dec.	200.3	202.8	229.0	238.7	240.5

PART III - INDUSTRIES ETC.

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of salary and wage earners employed in N.S.W. (excluding rural employees and household domestics) increased by 2,000 (males 800, females 1,200) in December, 1943. There was an appreciable decline in Government employment (males 1,300, females 600) and an increase of 2,100 males and 1,800 females in private employment. Transfer from Government to private employment has been in evidence since July, 1943, but December was the first month in which the number of females in Government employment actually declined. The December increase in both total and private employment included a substantial number of workers temporarily engaged in retail trade during the Christmas shopping period.

NEW SOUTH WALES

ESTIMATED WAGE & SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. RURAL WORKERS & HOUSEHOLD DOMESTICS)
(Includes Civil Constructional Corps in N.S.W.)

End of Month	M A L E S.			F E M A L E S.			T O T A L.		
	Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied).	Private Employ- ers.	Total	Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied).	Private Employ- ers.	Total	Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied).	Private Employ- ers.	Total.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
Nov.	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.2x
1942-July	158.6	384.3	542.9	29.3	197.0	226.3	187.9	581.3	769.2
Sept.	157.1	381.9	539.0	31.3	196.9	228.2	188.4	578.8	767.2p
1943-Jan.	155.6	379.4	535.0	36.4	199.8	236.2	192.0	579.2	771.2
Mar.	156.2	378.0	534.2	38.7	201.2	239.9	194.9	579.2	774.1
July	156.6	372.0	528.6	45.8	199.7	245.5	202.4	571.7	774.1
Sept.	155.0	372.3	527.3	46.7	201.9	248.6	201.7	574.2	775.9
Oct.	154.9	372.3	527.2	46.8	203.1	249.9	201.7	575.4	777.1
Nov.	153.9	373.5	527.4	47.0	203.5	250.5	200.9	577.0	777.9
Dec.	152.6	375.6	528.2	46.4	205.3	251.7	199.0	580.9	779.9

x November, 1941, highest recorded. p September, 1942, lowest since November, 1941.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Consumption of gas and electricity in Sydney and suburbs increased by 8.4% in 1943, as compared with an increase of 4% in 1942 and 9.6% in 1941. The total increase between 1939 and 1943 was 27%.

Index numbers indicate that the consumption of gas and electricity was well above last year's level in each of the nine months January to September, and about the same in the last quarter. Steps to economise in the use of light and power were taken towards the end of October.

There was a decline in the index number for January, from 164 in 1943 to 155 in 1944.

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INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY - SYDNEY & SUBURBS

Base: Average corresponding month 1929-1931 = 100

Year	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Whole year
1942	158	157	158	163	161	165	154
1943	171	181	171	162	164	163	167

TRANSPORT.

Railways: In each of the first seven months of 1943/44 passenger journeys exceeded the comparable figures of the previous year, the total increase being 7.9 m. journeys or 5.8%. Goods and livestock tonnages, however, declined by 113,000 tons following small decreases in September, October, and December, and a larger decrease, 147,000 tons, in January, 1944.

Financial returns display a tendency to decline from peak levels. Gross earnings increased by about £450,000 in the first two months of the year but during the next five months the amount of the increase was reduced to £380,000. The working surplus, or net earnings, to the end of January, 1944, was £5,387,000 or £360,000 lower than at January, 1943.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	Month of January			Seven months ended January.			
	Passenger Journeys	Goods & Livestock tonnage	Gross Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods & Livestock Tonnage	Gross Earnings	Net Earnings
	Million	000	£000	Million	000	£000	£000
1938/39	16.3	1,093	1,519	114.7	8,455	11,172	3,005
1940/41	15.8	1,254	1,845	110.4	10,826	13,829	5,079
1941/42	17.7	1,472	2,304	125.3	10,720	15,436	5,159
1942/43	20.4	1,586	2,885	136.5	11,625	20,163	5,747
1943/44	21.3	1,439	2,822	144.4	11,512	20,543	5,387

⌘ Gross Earnings less Working Expenses, available to pay Interest, etc., on Railway loan debt (£6.7 m. in 1942-43).

Government Trams & Buses. Passenger traffic continues to expand, an increase of 11 m. journeys (4.5%) being recorded in respect of the half year ended December. Financial results as disclosed by an aggregation of monthly figures released by the Department of Road Transport and Tramways are however, unfavourable. Working expenses were higher by £161,000 than in July-December, 1942, and gross earnings were only £65,000 higher. Net earnings, £245,000, in the half year were £96,000 less than in the previous year, £196,000 less than two years ago, and £52,000 below the corresponding amount in 1928/29.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS & BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	Month of December				Half year ended December			
	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses x	Net Earnings £	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses x	Net Earnings £
	Millions	£000	£000	£000	Millions	£000	£000	£000
1938/39	33.8	393	323	70	185.4	2,143	1,846	297
1940/41	35.6	413	311	102	198.8	2,310	1,877	433
1941/42	42.8	484	421	63	238.8	2,693	2,252	441
1942/43	42.9	479	404	75	244.3	2,762	2,421	341
1943/44	44.6	495	438	57	255.3	2,827	2,582	245

x Excluding Depreciation, £ Gross Earnings less Working Expenses available to pay Depreciation and Int., etc., on Loan Debt, (£569,000 in 1942-43).

Motor Registrations. In January, 1944, there was an increase of 1,061 in the number of vehicles registered. Cars increased by 526, lorries and vans by 405 and motor-cycles by 50. These increases are smaller than in the preceding three months, when registrations were probably stimulated by seasonal factors. A movement to recommission vehicles has been in evidence since the middle of 1943.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

Vehicles	At end of Month,			Increase			
	Aug. 1939 x	July 1942 £	Jan. 1944	Nov. 1943	Dec. 1943	Jan. 1944	July '42 to Jan. '44
	000	000	000	000	000	000	
Cars	216.6	170.0	177.8	999	1,317	526	7,747
Lorries & Vans	77.6	70.9	75.5	594	799	405	4,575
All Vehicles	329.2	267.4	279.5	1,751	2,496	1,061	12,115

* Pre-war peak. £ Lowest wartime number of cars.

The release for essential civil purposes of new lorries and vans, which commenced in May, 1943, is continuing at a fairly steady rate. New car registrations are few.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED: AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER IN N.S.W.

Year	Cars (incl. Cabs & Omnibuses)					Lorries and Vans				
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
1938/39	368	343	428	457	325	181	177	202	163	117
1942/43	16	21	18	12	7	7	4	5	2	6
1943/44	4	6	4	5	3	60	64	86	94	66

/BUILDING.....

BUILDING.

Private building permits issued in the metropolitan area in January amounted to £66,001, of which £16,083 were for new buildings and £49,918 for alterations and additions. There were 9 new houses estimated to cost £2,958. Factory building £45,460, accounted for 69% of the total amount.

Government building contracts let in January amounted to £170,528 in the metropolis and £48,017 in the remainder of the State. The total for N.S.W. £218,545, compares with £729,528 in 1943 and £675,583 in 1942.

NEW BUILDINGS, ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS.

Seven months ended January -

	Private Building	Government Building		
	Sydney & Suburbs	Sydney & Suburbs	Balance of State	Total N.S.W.
	£000	£000	£000	£000
1939/40	6,833	751	589	1,340
1940/41	7,110	900	1,531	2,431
1941/42	5,503	955	2,402	3,357
1942/43	843	1,461	1,458	2,919
1943/44	759	1,297	463	1,760